



Final Call for Grazing Grant Applications

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MADISON – Grants to support grazing technical assistance and education for farmers are now available. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) reminds potential applicants that applications must be postmarked by April 23.

Technical assistance grants provide funds for grazing specialists to work one-on-one with farmers to develop their grazing systems. Education grants support the activities of networks, organizations and agencies to educate farmers and consumers about the economic, environmental and social benefits of grazing.

Eligible recipients for these grants include county, state and federal agencies; colleges and universities; non-profit organizations; grazing networks; and farmers. Projects will be selected through a competitive process dependent on final state and federal funding levels.

Previous recipients of technical assistance grants have written and revised grazing plans for individual farmers to better manage their acreage. Recipients of education grants have planned pasture walks, meetings, conferences and workshops about grazing.

Grazing grants are provided through the Wisconsin Grazing Lands Initiative. The initiative seeks to expand the use of profitable, grazing-based livestock production systems that foster environmental stewardship. Approximately 22% of dairy farmers and 42% of beef farmers use management intensive grazing on their operations in Wisconsin, according to the most recent Census of Agriculture.

Grant application materials are available at http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Grazing/Grazing_Grants. For more information, contact Laura Paine, DATCP's Organic and Grazing Specialist, at 608-224-5120 or laura.paine@wi.gov. You can also connect with DATCP on Twitter at twitter.com/widatcp or Facebook at facebook.com/widatcp.

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